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Hindus might be provided for the Christians or that accommodation might be found for them within the premises of the existing satroms.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Members are noted.

57. *Expansion of the scope of the Assembly*

Mr. M. Narayana Kurup (Member, Vilavankode Taluk) represented that, in view of the growing popularity of the Assembly, and of the desire of the members to have a larger share in the material concerns of the people, it was desirable to subject the State Budget to discussion at the annual sittings of the Assembly. The control thus exercised by the people through their representatives, over the administration of the public finances, would be of great advantage. It would lead to the financial conditions and necessities of the people being rightly gauged and ensure a deeper sense of responsibility, besides creating a better feeling of trust and regard between the people and the State. If, in the present circumstances, any inconvenience might be experienced in making the change all at once, the Member suggested that, as a first step, four members from each division might be chosen, from among the representatives, to meet and discuss the Budget with the Dewan.

Mr. C. P. Thomas (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Kottayam) said that the Assembly was a spontaneous gift of His Highness the Maha Raja, and that it was with a sense of gratitude that a gradual development of its functions was being asked for. Though Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao had said at the first session of the Assembly that rules would be framed for the regulation of the deliberations and discussions in the Assembly, nothing had been done since then. The Member suggested that the sense of the Assembly might be taken on each question before the Dewan gave his reply. That would make each member realise that he was a Member of the Assembly in session, and not one who had come to represent local grievances. The Assembly would then be an organised body whose views might help Government in framing their policy or rendering the executive in all its branches and grades more efficient. In order that a Member might have ample time to prepare his subjects, he suggested that the elections might be held at least six months prior to the session of the Assembly and that the meeting might be convened during the Navarathri season or after the Christmas holidays. He pointed out that the publication of the general subjects in the Gazette would give the members an opportunity of consulting one another and acting

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in concert with regard to the important subjects. Another suggestion made by the Member was that the number of local subjects might be reasonably limited by not allowing them to be brought up before the Assembly in the first instance. He also urged the desirability of placing on record the views of the Assembly as a whole, in regard to important questions, after full discussion. In conclusion, the Member observed that the suggestions, if adopted, would tend to give a coherent character to the collective activity of the Members of the Assembly and prayed that the same might receive the kind consideration of Government.

Dewan's reply.—To the suggestions now made, I would only say in reply that His Highness' Government view with pleasure the steady development of the Popular Assembly since it was organised four years ago. They note with special gratification the moderation which has always characterised its deliberations and the increasing interest taken in those deliberations by His Highness' subjects. I would strongly advise you to leave the matter there, in His Highness' hands. The authority which brought the Assembly into being may well be trusted to develop it on safe and sound lines. I am sure that all of you would bear me out when I say that the policy of His Highness' Government, in their dealings with the Assembly, has always been one of sympathy and helpfulness. The question of making the Assembly of greater help to his Government and of more use to his people is ever present to His Highness' mind.

38. *Appointment of an Advisory Council to the Dewan.*

Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Kottayam Taluk) suggested the desirability of appointing an Advisory Council to the Dewan consisting of members elected from experienced officers of the State who permanently stay in the country. Such councils exist in the sister States of Mysore and Pudukotta. It would be a source of advantage to the Dewan to have the advice of Councillors who are acquainted with the traditions, history, customs and manners of the people. It would further ensure the maintenance of a continuity of policy in the administration.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestion to organise a Council to help the Dewan does not commend itself to His Highness' Government.

The Assembly adjourned at 2 P. M. and met again at 2-30 P. M.

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